

House Subcommittee on COVID-19

House Bill 2327 Testimony

From personal experience of long-term care gap resources for my father in law, although he passed a few years ago, I continue to question why we are not taking care of our seniors in a respectful way as seniors. It was a quandary of a very complicated financial mirage of programs and no real help was to be had.

When my father in law savings was dwindling at an extremely fast pace to pay for the Assisted Living Community in which he lived, I descended into abyss of the federal and state rules and laws that pertain to Medicaid and Veterans Geriatrics and Extended Care for Assisted Living Facilities.

Option 1: Medicaid, spend down remaining cash and place father in law's residence "for sale" (responsible renters occupying).

OR

Option 2: VA Geriatrics and Extended Care for Assisted Living Facilities spend down remaining cash and sell father in law's residence. Renter occupying father in law's house wished to buy the house.

We chose Option 2, VA not knowing that my father in law would pass before VA processed because of a mix up with open issues to bring the application along and issue "You are Approved or Denied".

Although before the VA application with open issues problem were discovered by immediate family due to interference with other more distant family that did not have Power of Attorney phoned William Hatten at Tillamook County Veteran Services. Insisted that Mr. Hatten visit my father in law and have him sign change of VA representative for the long term care benefits application process to Mr. Hatten as VA representative. According to what Mr. Hatten told me he spent quite a bit of time at the assisted living facility trying to get my father in law to understand and sign the document as he had moderate-to-severe dementia dependent on time of day, how much sleep he had, and just overall stubbornness that was exasperated due to his dementia.

In other words, damned if you do, damned if you don't, and a total catch 22.

I support the passage of House Bill 2327 as seniors in our state should not have to be stressed that they may become uprooted, especially for those with dementia because their need stability and a calm environment is very high on the scale of care treatment with this disability.

I appreciate your time and your thoughtful processes in examining HB 2327.

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